

DC

UNIVERSE

56

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NIGHTWING

**AT
LAST...**

**...THE RETURN OF
RIC GRAYSON!**

LOBDELL
NICIEZA
GIANFELICE
FILARDI

CHRIS
MOONENHAM
FILARDI

WONDER COMICS

**THE ULTIMATE HEROES FOR A
NEW GENERATION!**



**Young
JUSTICE**

Written by **BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS**
Art by **PATRICK GLEASON**

MONTHLY BEGINNING
JANUARY





NIGHTWING 56 LOBDELL • NICIEZA • GIANFELICE • FILARDI

RATED **TEEN**
DCUNIVERSE.COM



WE'RE NOT
READY FOR
THIS.

GANGS OR
MUGGERS, SURE.
EVEN BANK
ROBBERS.

BUT AN ACTUAL
SUPER-VILLAIN
FROM GOTHAM
CITY?

I CAME TO
BLUDHAVEN IN
SEARCH OF THE
LOST SON OF
GOTHAM.

BUT WHEN I GOT
HERE, I REALIZED IT IS
SUCH A **FRESH** AND
FERTILE CITY--

--FILLED WITH A
PEOPLE WHO STILL
BELIEVE IN SOMETHING
AS FOOLISH AS
HOPE.

I REALIZED
I'M HERE FOR
A REASON FAR
MORE COMPLEX
THAN **SIMPLE**
REVENGE...

KNIGHT TERRORS

PART
SEVEN

HEROIC TENDENCIES

SCOTT LOBDELL PLOT
FABIAN NICIEZA SCRIPT DAVIDE GIANFELICE ARTIST
NICK FILARDI COLORS AND WORLD DESIGN LETTERS
CHRIS MOONEYHAM and NICK FILARDI COVER
OTTO SCHMIDT VARIANT COVER
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASST. EDITOR KATIE KUBERT EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH GROUP EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFGAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ

...I AM HERE TO LIFT THE GOSSAMER VEIL OF CIVILIZATION FROM THEIR EYES.

FOR ONLY FEAR EMPOWERS!

ONLY FEAR INSPIRES US TO RAGE AGAINST THE DYING OF THE LIGHT!

ONLY FEAR WILL SET US FREE!

IT'S WORKING, SCARECROW-- I FEAR YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SHUT UP!

UMM... REALLY, H-WING? YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TORQUE OFF THE GUY WHO CLEARLY CONTROLS A MOB?

A ROUTINE ARSON INVESTIGATION LED ME--DETECTIVE ALPOHNS SAPIENZA--TO A HIDDEN BUNKER FILLED WITH EQUIPMENT FROM THE VIGILANTE KNOWN AS NIGHTWING.

FRUSTRATED WITH THE RED TAPE ASSOCIATED WITH BEING ONE OF BLUDHAVEN'S FINEST, I MADE THE ONLY RATIONAL DECISION...

...I TOOK THE EQUIPMENT TO CARRY ON THE MANTLE OF A MISSING HERO...

H-WING? I DIDN'T AGREE TO CODE NAMES.

HEADS IN THE GAME, PEOPLE.

...AND DRAGGED MY FRIENDS INTO THIS INSANITY.

MALCOLM HUTCH DIDN'T MAKE IT THROUGH THE POLICE ACADEMY FOR PERSONAL REASONS-- BUT HE'S THE MOST NATURALLY GIFTED COP I'VE EVER KNOWN.

TAUNTING THE BAD GUY.

SUPER-HERO 101.

I'VE BEEN RESEARCHING.

GUYS, IF WE WANTED TO PLAY BY THE BOOK--

--WE NEVER WOULD HAVE PUT ON THE MASKS.

COLLEEN EDWARDS HAS TAKEN TO THE COSTUME TOO EASILY. I'M HOPING HER RECKLESSNESS DOESN'T GET US KILLED.

HER BROTHER ZAK IS YOUNG AND TOO CAUTIOUS. AND I'M HOPING HIS TIMIDITY DOESN'T GET US KILLED.

JURY IS STILL OUT ON WHETHER THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA, SIS.

LET'S KEEP THIS SIMPLE: FREEZE OR DIE, STRAW MAN.

NOT HELPFUL.

SCARECROW!

STAND DOWN AND SURRENDER YOURSELF NOW!

IF NOT, I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY.

YOU... YOU'RE NOT NIGHTWING.

YOU'RE A FRAUD. YOU ALL ARE FRAUDS!

WE ARE THE LAW IN BLUDHAVEN.

THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT US.

WHATEVER TOXIN YOU'RE RELEASING, STOP IT NOW!

LET'S NOT ESCALATE THIS ANY FURTHER!

ESCALATE? THIS IS NOT AN ESCALATION...



...IT'S AN EMANCIPATION!

THIS IS AN UNLEASHING OF EVERYTHING YOU FEAR--

--A POPULACE UNENCUMBERED BY RESTRAINT!



THESE PEOPLE ARE OVERCOME BY HORROR!

HONESTLY? I'M RIGHT THERE WITH THEM.

BREATHING DEVICE NOTWITHSTANDING.



PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING.

THIS'D BE SO MUCH EASIER IF WE JUST SHOT THEM.



WE JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO TAKE DOWN OVER A HUNDRED MIND-CONTROLLED CIVILIANS WITHOUT HURTING ANY OF THEM...

...JUST LIKE OUR RIOT SCRIMMAGE, IT'LL BE EASY.

HOT DIGGITY DAMN, I LOVE THIS TOWN ALREADY...



Maybe that bullet to my brain was worse than I thought...*

YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY, BUDDY!

THAT GUY'S RIGHT. SOME KINDA RIOT IN THAT DIRECTION!

Everyone's running away from danger--

--and I'm running toward it.

Why?

*The man formerly known as Dick Grayson a.k.a. NIGHTWING was shot in BATMAN #55. --K.K.



Giving yourself way too much credit, Grayson.

I'm just trying to reach my cab.



Beatrice is trapped back at the Prodigal Bar...

...I was barely able to fight off the mob that attacked us...



...but the plan is to drive back and get her out of this crazy town until things die down.

HERE IT IS!

I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WITHOUT MY MEMORY--

--BUT THAT FELT LIKE IT WAS THE LONGEST FIVE BLOCKS OF MY LIFE.

HOLD ON, BEA...



...I'LL BE... RIGHT...?

Damn.



It's "Nightwing"--

--the cop who found the old costumes and weapons I torched.*

Apparently, he recruited some of his friends to join him.

*Ric torched his old hideout in NIGHTWING #50. He must have forgotten his costumes were fireproof. --K.K.



WALK AWAY, RIC.

THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.



THE NIGHTWINGS ARE ON THIS.

THEY WANT THIS LIFE.

THEY CHOSE IT.

I'VE MADE A DIFFERENT CHOICE.

I'M NOT GOING TO FEEL BAD ABOUT IT...



I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!

KTANG

UGHH



SIS! NO--

Who am I kidding?



THIS IS FALLING APART QUICKLY.

WE LACK THE MANPOWER, BUT MORE, WE LACK THE DISCIPLINE.

--SCARECROW, STAY AWAY FROM HER!



AH, SO MUCH ANGER AND SO LITTLE SELF-CONTROL.

YOU DO NOT DESERVE THE MANTLE, LITTLE HATCHLING.

STHSSSS



DUDE! DON'T DO IT!

OH, NO...



YOU FILTHY SACK OF STRAW!

IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HER--

I'M AFRAID YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.

OKAY.

NOT THAT AFRAID.

OFFICERS... IF YOU DON'T MIND?

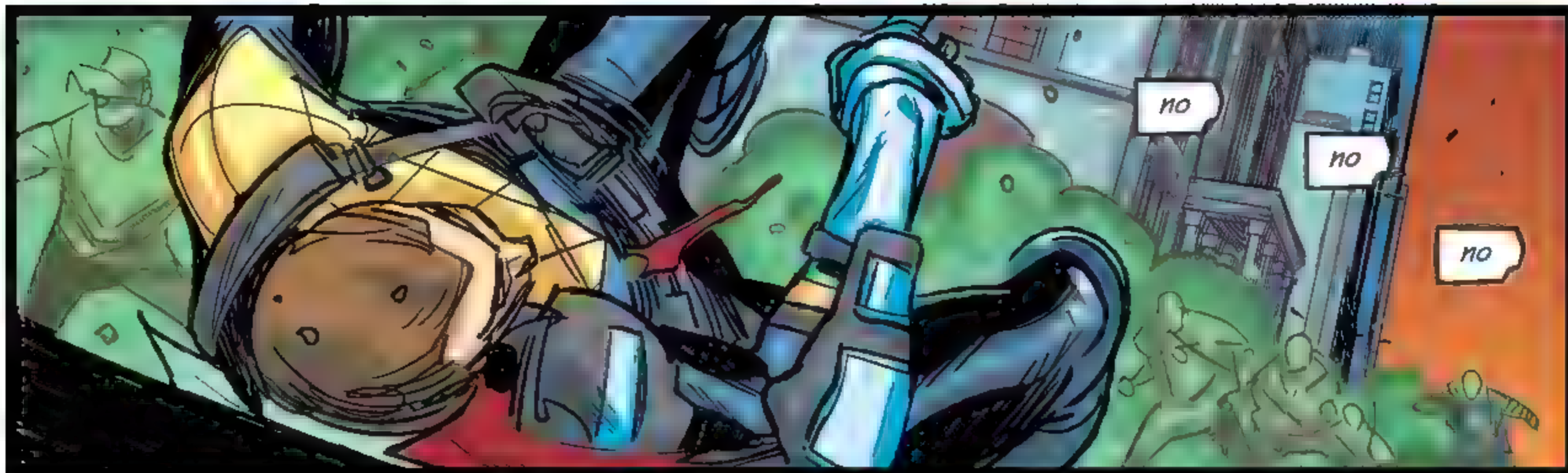
POP POP POP POP POP POP POP



POP
POP

POP
POP



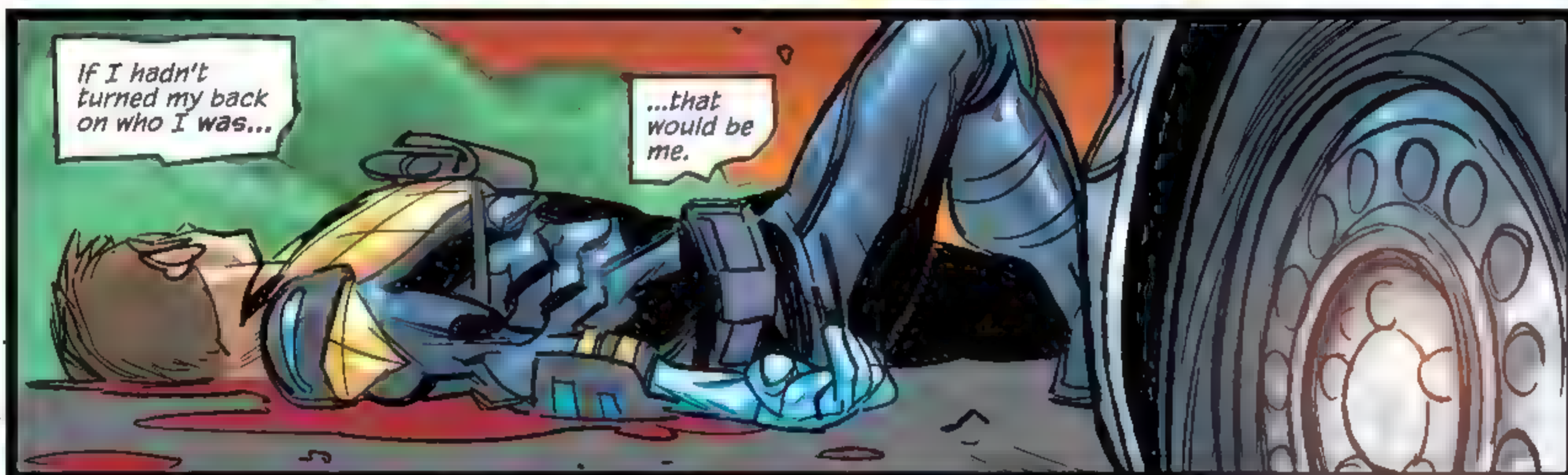


This is my fault.

This kid took a bullet that was meant for me.

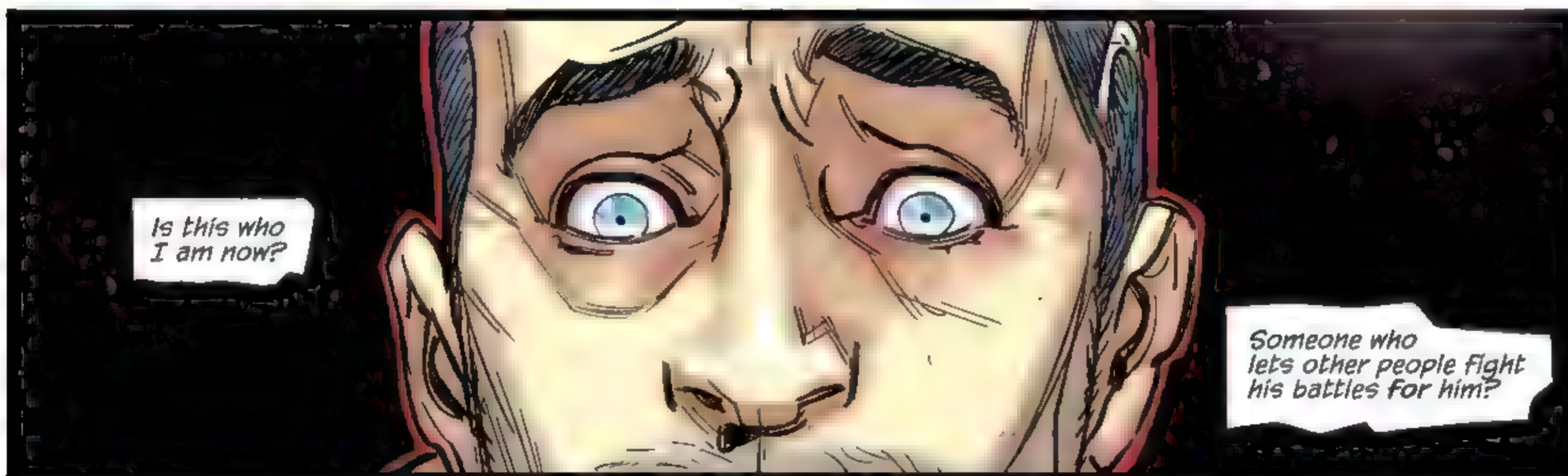
No.

Meant for Nightwing.



If I hadn't turned my back on who I was...

...that would be me.



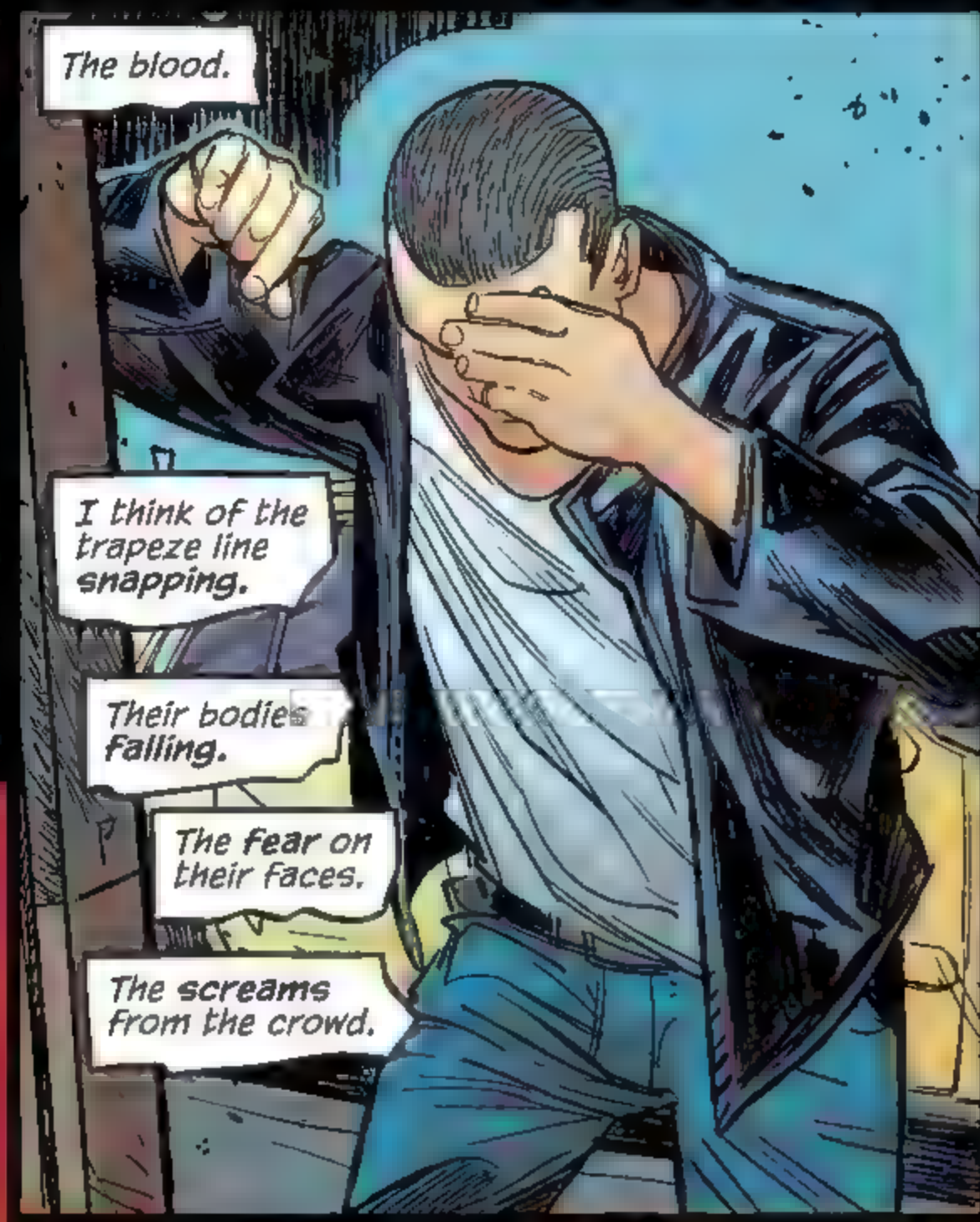
Is this who I am now?

Someone who lets other people fight his battles for him?



I don't have a lot of memories.

But I remember what it was like to feel helpless.



The blood.

I think of the trapeze line snapping.

Their bodies falling.

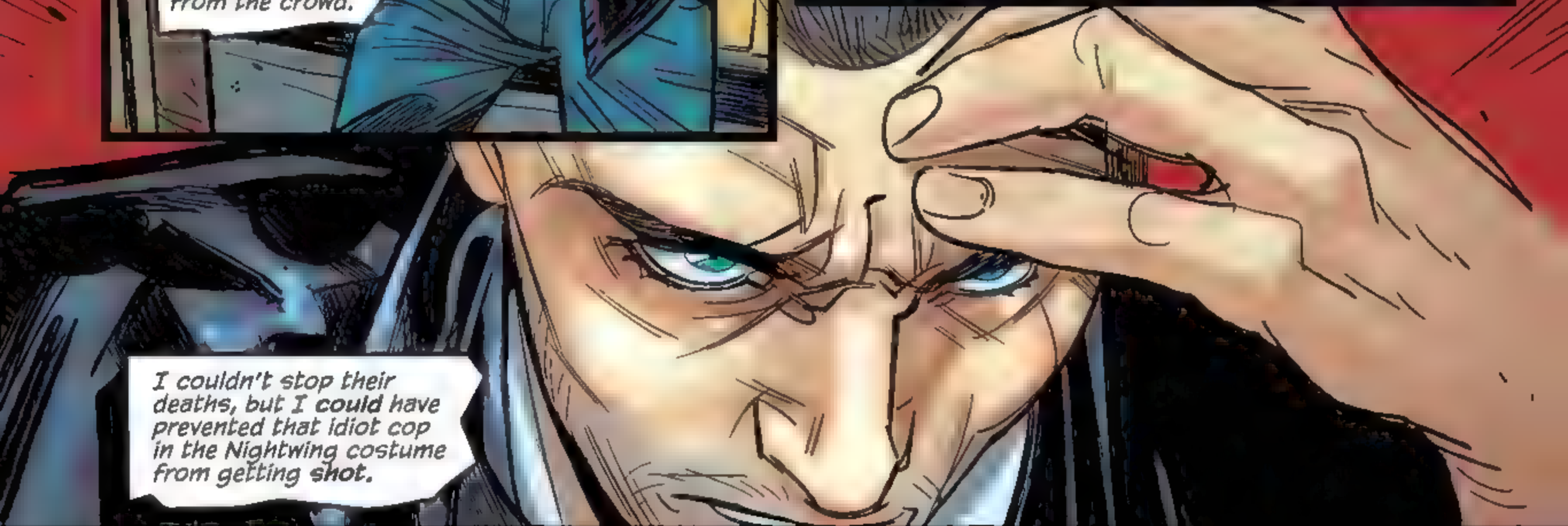
The fear on their faces.

The screams from the crowd.

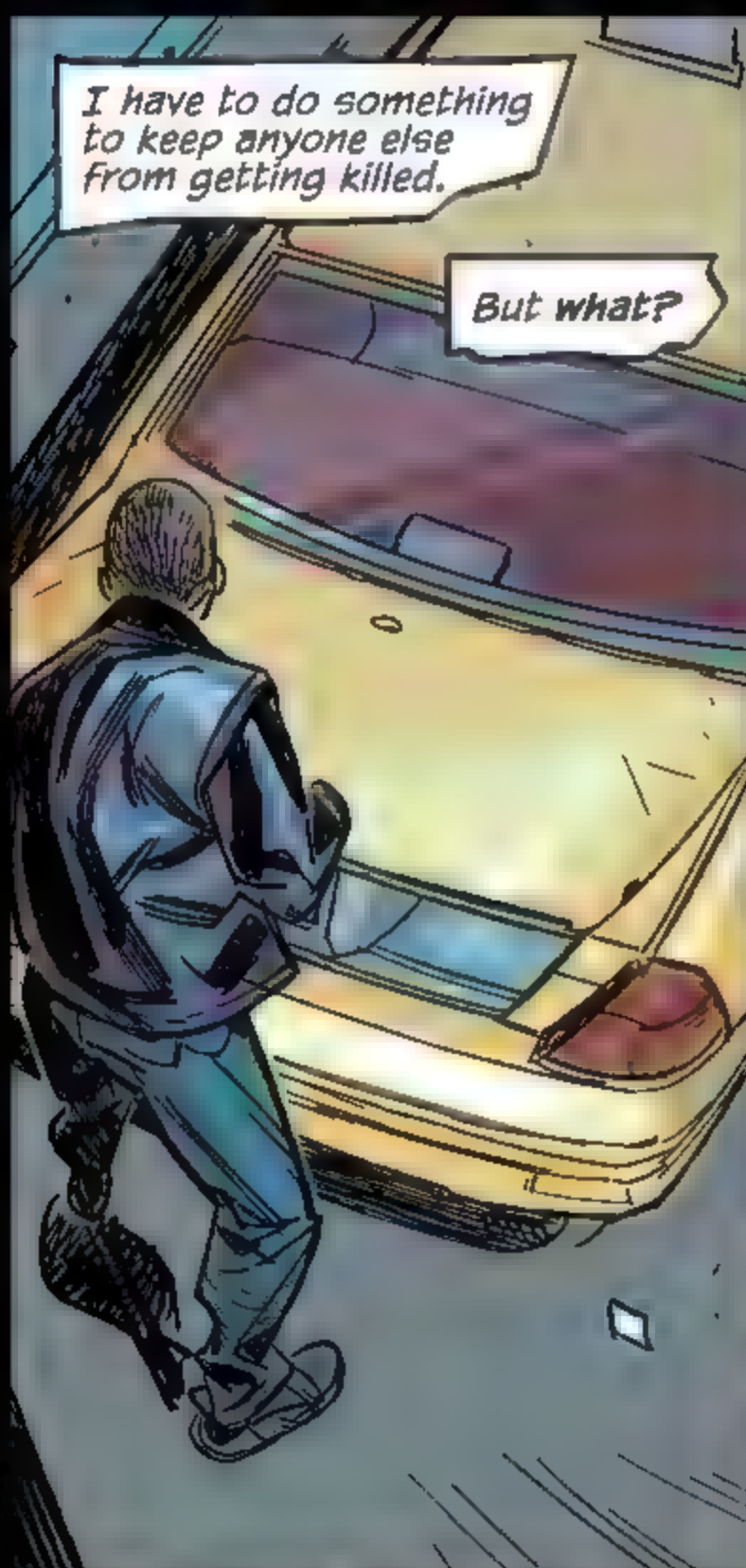


When I think of my parents dying, I think about all of that.

But I never think of the blood.

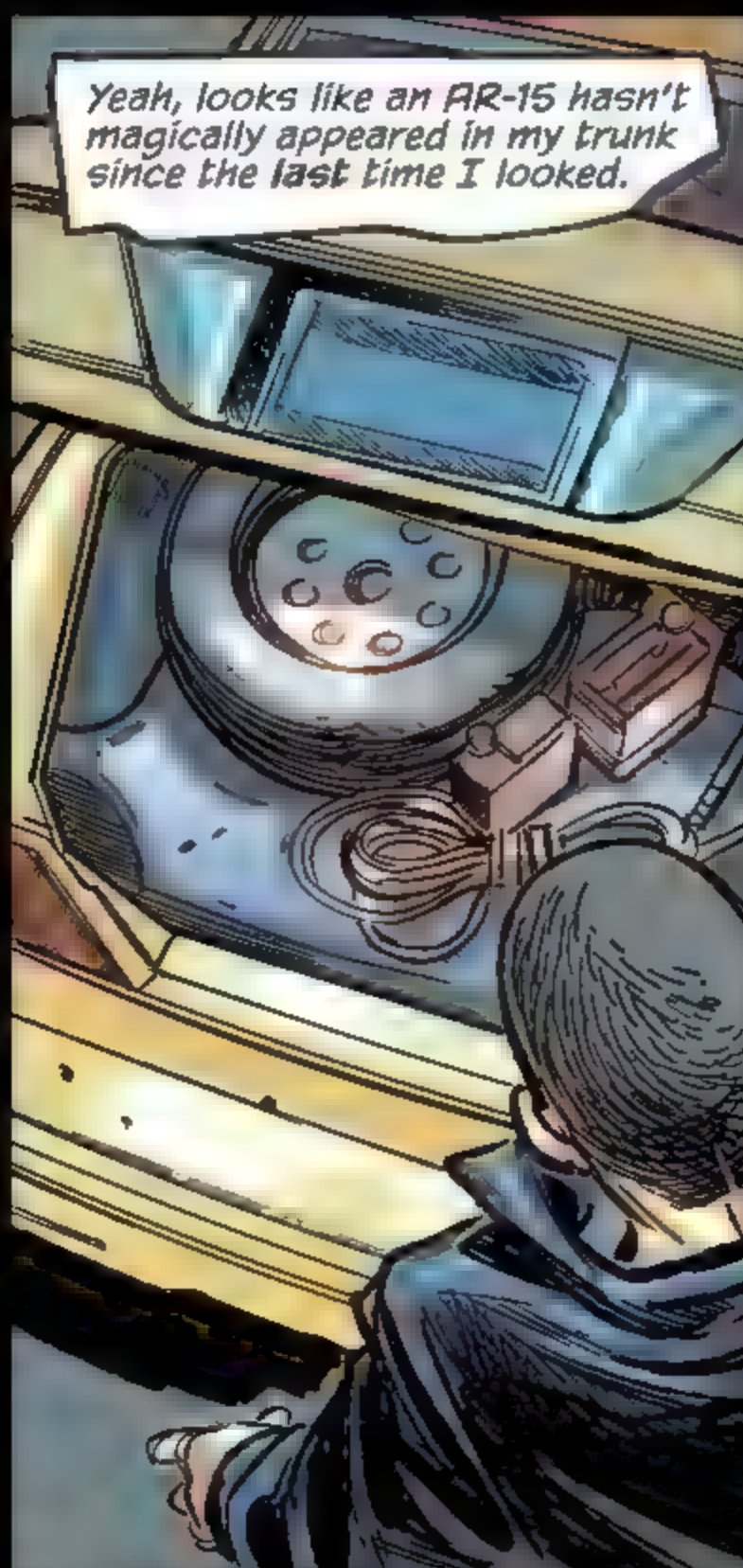


I couldn't stop their deaths, but I could have prevented that idiot cop in the Nightwing costume from getting shot.

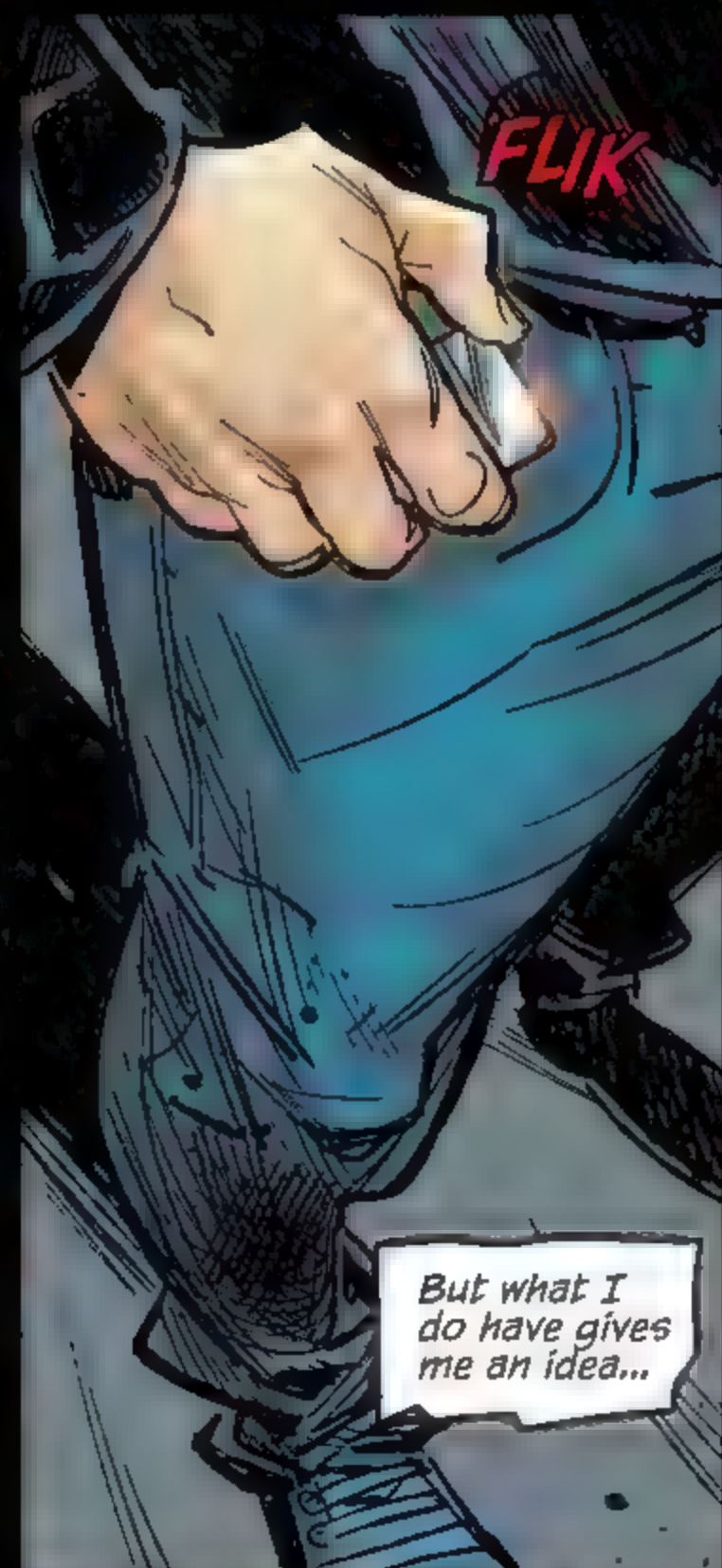


I have to do something to keep anyone else from getting killed.

But what?



Yeah, looks like an AR-15 hasn't magically appeared in my trunk since the last time I looked.



FLIK

But what I do have gives me an idea...



NIGHTWINGS!
IS ZA--CAN
ANYONE GET TO
HIM? IS HE
ALIVE?

WE'RE
GETTING
OVERRUN
HERE--



--WE'RE
GOING TO
LOSE!

THAT'S
RIGHT YOU ARE,
MY LITTLE
SYCOPHANTS--

WHA--?

So I'm not
Dick Grayson
anymore.

Apparently, Robin was
a long time ago, and
Nightwing doesn't
belong to me.

I don't have a
Batmobile or
a Titan by
my side.

NO! THE
SMOKE WILL
MITIGATE THE
EFFECTS OF
MY FEAR
TOXIN!

None of that
matters right
now.

HEY--THE
PEOPLE, THEY'RE
HACKING UP THE
SCARECROW'S
GAS--

--THE CYANIDE,
CARBON MONOXIDE
AND SULFUR DIOXIDE
IN THAT TIRE SMOKE
ARE SAVING OUR
BUTTS RIGHT
NOW!

WHAT--WHAT
THE HELL JUST
HAPPENED?

HE DID.

Right now, I'm just a guy
trying to make a difference.

A part of me is terrified,
whispering that I have to be
crazy to be doing this.

But another
part feels like
this is the way
it's supposed
to be.

LOOKS LIKE YOU
NIGHTWINGS GOT
YOURSELVES A REAL
CIRCUS HEADACHE
HERE.

YOUR
FOURTH--
IS HE--?





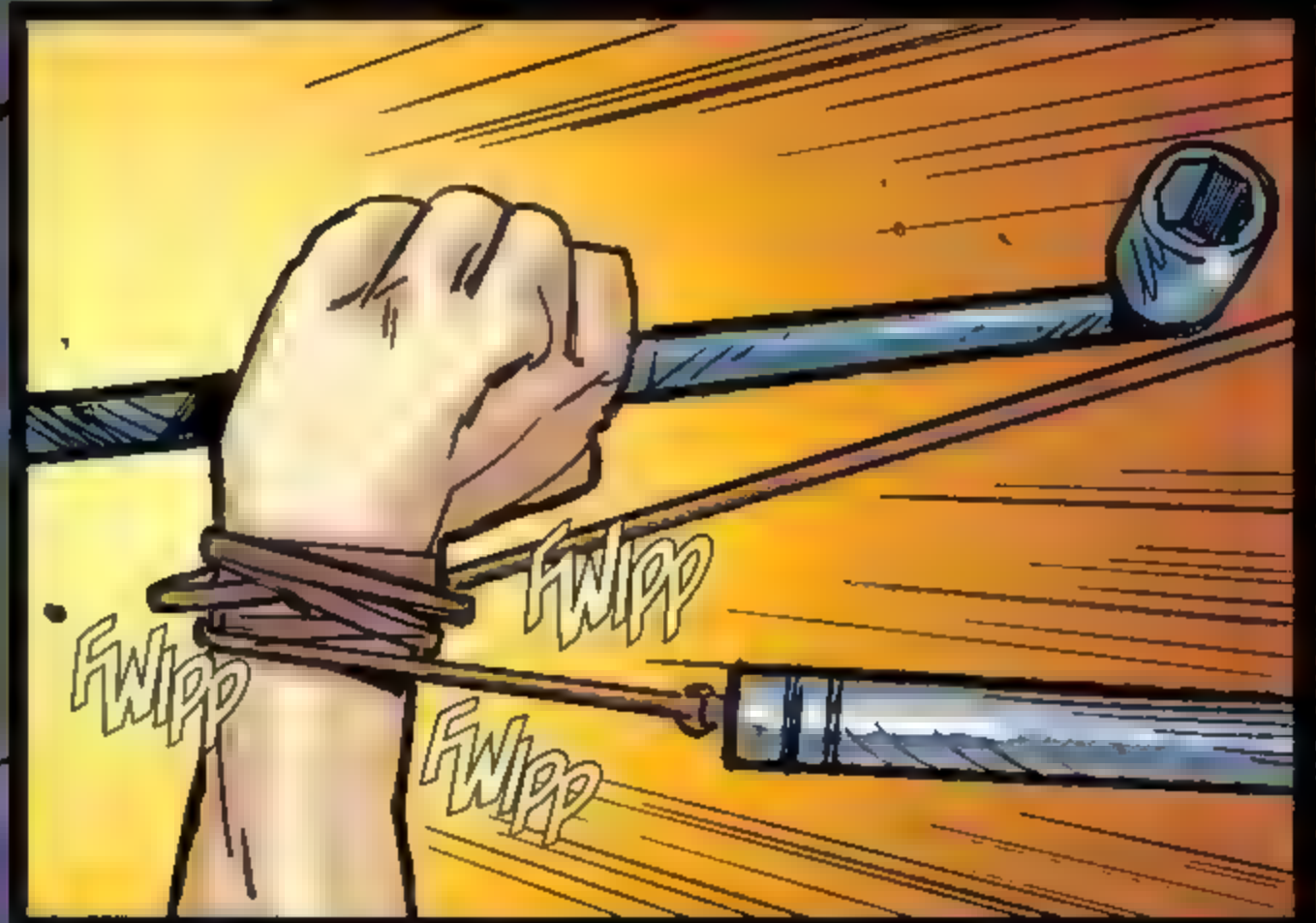
HE'S--HE'S STILL BREATHING, BUT HE'S WOUNDED!

AND WE'RE AN ECHELON DOWN!



KEEP TIGHT ON THE SQUARE FORMATION!

I'VE GOTTA STANCH THE BLEEDING BEFORE HE BECOMES SEPTIC--COVER ME--!



THANKS FOR THE SAVE.

YOU ASKED FOR COVER.

YOU'RE NOT A NEW RECRUIT, ARE YOU?



NEW RECRUIT?
NO...NOT EXACTLY.

YOU NIGHTWINGS SHOULD ACT SMARTER-- STUPID STUNT LIKE YOUR FRIEND PULLED, LUCKY HE DIDN'T GET SHOT IN THE HEAD.

WELL, HIS BODY ARMOR TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE DAMAGE.

BUT I NEED TO EXAMINE HIM UNTIL I CAN ASCERTAIN THE EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES--

=KOFF KOFF= ARG, DAMMIT, I'M FINE--



=KOFF KOFF= WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS CONTROL THE RIOT...MAINTAIN AN UNBIASED ATTITUDE...

DUMBASS, YOU ALMOST GOT YOURSELF KILLED. THIS WAS NOT HOW WE WERE TRAINED--



NO, WE HAVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT WE ARE ENTRUSTED TO PROTECT AND SERVE.

AND SCARECROW...HE HAS TO BE STOPPED AND TREATED FAIRLY...WITH JUSTICE.



NEGATIVE!

OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS PROTECTING THE CIVILIANS.

WE HAVE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OUR KAMIKAZE CABBIE PROVIDED AND CLEAR THE PEOPLE OUT.

YOU MORON--

RELAX, SIS.

=KAK=

I'M FINE. GLAD YOU ARE, TOO.

DON'T OVERSELL IT, Z.



YEAH, YOU GUYS
DO THE "PROTECT
AND SERVE" BIT
BUT I AGREE WITH
WALKING TARGET
NIGHTWING®--

--THE BEST WAY
TO HELP INNOCENT
PEOPLE IS BY TAKING
THE MANIAC IN THE
SCARECROW
COSTUME OUT!

WAIT!

MAYBE
THE NEWBIE IS
RIGHT, SAP.



YEAH.

MAYBE...



...BUT THE LAST
THING WE NEED IS
ANOTHER *CIVILIAN*
TO WORRY
ABOUT!



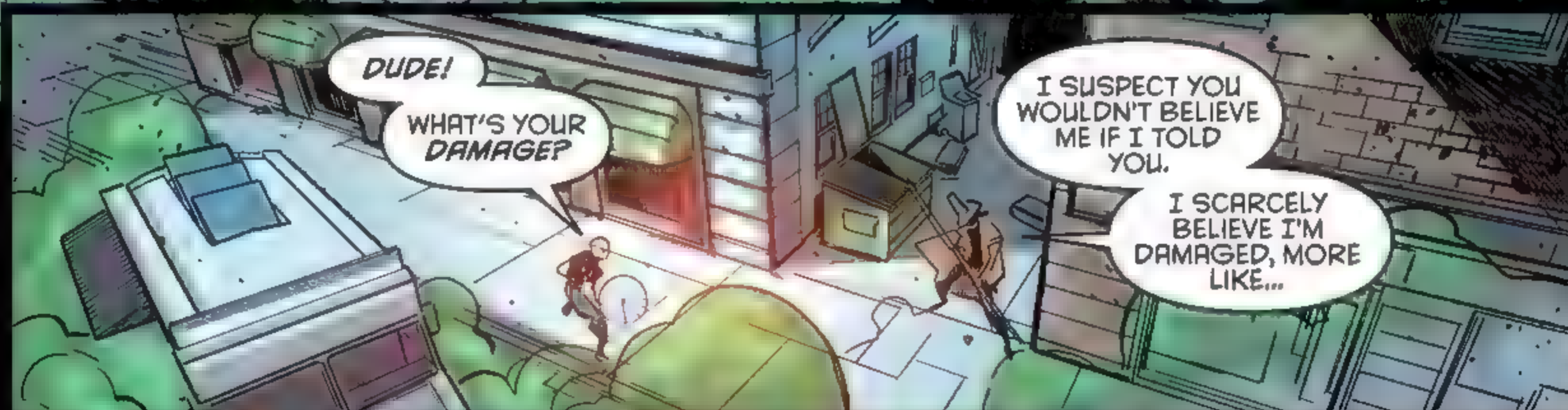
Gas coming from
under the truck?



Can I just say...

...I hope I
never get used
to this.

Being able to
do this stuff.



DUDE!

WHAT'S YOUR
DAMAGE?

I SUSPECT YOU
WOULDN'T BELIEVE
ME IF I TOLD
YOU.

I SCARCELY
BELIEVE I'M
DAMAGED, MORE
LIKE...



...I'M
FEARLESS.



NO! NO,
PLEASE--

FASCINATING.

FOR
A MOMENT, I
WONDERED IF YOU
WERE IMMUNE
TO MY FEAR TOXIN
AS ONLY ONE
OTHER--

PLEASE
DON'T--



--WALK
INTO MY
FIST!

GEEARGH?!

His gas isn't
affecting me--
don't know why.

Maybe it's because of
the past everyone keeps
telling me about?

Maybe I've been
inoculated or
something?

Or maybe I've just
never been afraid.



HOW ARE YOU NOT
CRIPPLED BY YOUR
FEARLESSNESS?

WHO
ARE YOU,
BOY?

I'VE
BEEN ASKING
MYSELF THE SAME
QUESTION FOR
WEEKS!
TURNS
OUT--

SWIPE



THAKK

AKK--

I'M JUST ME.

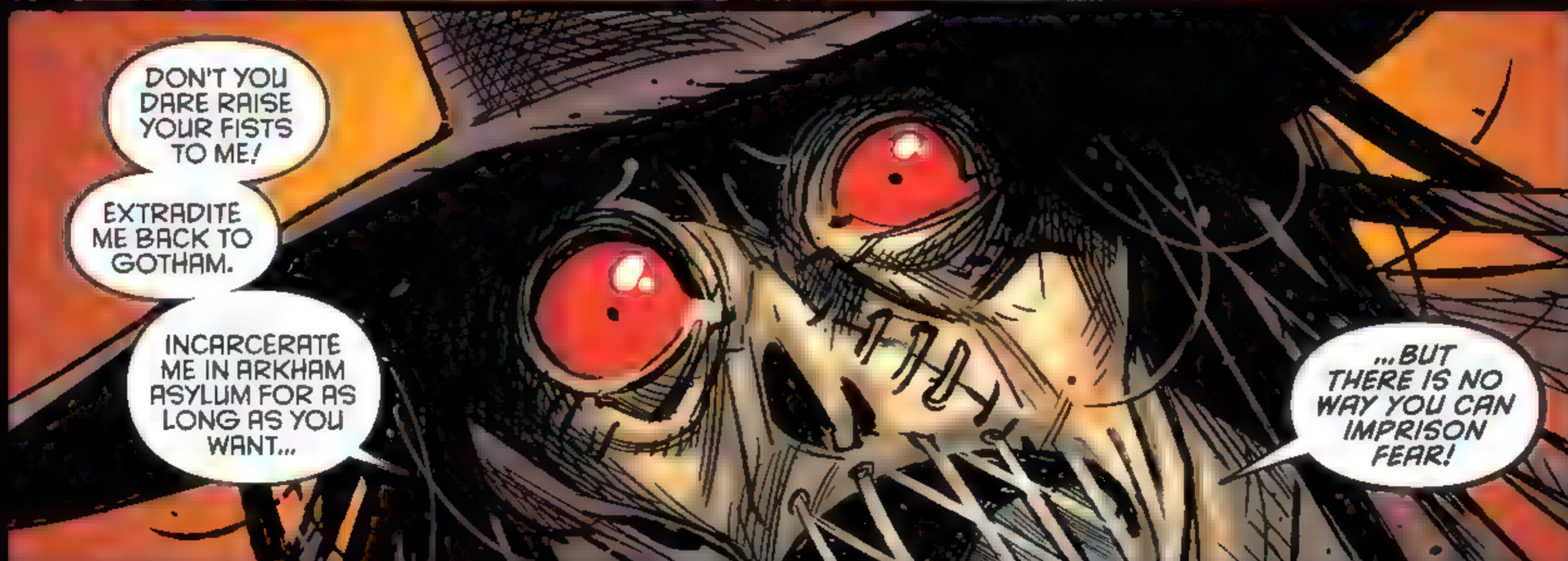


SCARECROW.

CEASE ANY AND ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CUFF HIM RIGHT AWAY, DO YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, KID?



DON'T YOU DARE RAISE YOUR FISTS TO ME!

EXTRADITE ME BACK TO GOTHAM.

INCARCERATE ME IN ARKHAM ASYLUM FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT...

...BUT THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN IMPRISON FEAR!



FEAR
THIS!

BOOM

...IS
A TEAM OF
HEROES.

IS THAT
WHAT WE
ARE NOW?
A TEAM?

WE ARE.
YOU'RE
NOT.

WHY
DOES THIS
SUDDENLY FEEL
LIKE IT'S ALL
GOING TO END
BADLY?

YET, HE'S
THE ONLY
REASON MY
BROTHER'S
ALIVE.

HE
SEEMS LIKE
HE'S THE ONE
WITH THE MOST
EXPERIENCE...

NEXT: NEW FRIENDS AND OLD FACES...

THE JONKIN'S DAUGHTER COMES TO BLUDHAVEN!

WONDER COMICS

**WATCH HER UNLOCK
THE DC UNIVERSE'S BIGGEST
SECRET**

NAOMI

A NEW SERIES FROM THE CO-CREATOR OF MILES MORALES

**BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
& DAVID F. WALKER
JAMAL CAMPBELL**

MONTHLY BEGINNING
JANUARY



DC Sneak Preview
NAOMI #1



BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS & DAVID F. WALKER writers
JAMAL CAMPBELL artist & cover
JOSH REED letterer
JESSICA CHEN associate editor
MIKE COTTON & ANDY KHOURI editors
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM & MARK DOYLE group editors
NAOMI created by BENDIS, WALKER and CAMPBELL

"It only lasted
seventeen whole
seconds."



NAOMI #1



TO BE CONTINUED IN
NAOMI #1
ON SALE IN JANUARY



WONDER COMICS

How did you get involved with the Wonder Comics project?

I found myself being asked by Brian Bendis if I would draw and design

another of his major projects at DC. This time it was YOUNG JUSTICE! He had no idea that I had been dying for a meaningful yet fun book with those characters for months. I even had some new characters in mind ready to go. How could I say no?



Are you approaching this differently than your previous work?

I'm a firm believer that a storyteller, like any actor or director, should bring emotional range to the material they are entrusted with. So for YOUNG JUSTICE I'm not looking to approach the art as I would in, say, icons like Batman or Superman, but rather as avatars for the readers. I am letting the energy and fun of the script shine through as much as possible. The

emotional connection between the characters and the readers is very important to me.

How do you find the balance in keeping these characters fresh while sticking to their legacies?

I have a process, like pruning a bonsai tree, (which I've never actually done, but I've seen *Karate Kid*) where I maintain the integrity and trustworthiness of the original, while tweaking and updating shapes and colors until the whole look works together in the best possible way. For Conner I pushed hard for DC to let me keep the '90s Jurgens/Grummet/Nauck look while adding, for story purposes, a couple Mad Max-esque tweaks. Robin's costume is cut to feel like classic Tim, short sleeves, staff, toes on his boots, but with a new cyber-ninja edge of tech and gadgetry built in. Also the way I show Bart move on the page is different than any other Flash. Since he's faster than the human eye I decided that I can't show him running. Maybe it's crazy to emphasize those little moments where he's hopping over

something or diving or falling down but I think it humanizes him even more. As any longtime fan of the comics or show would know, he's always been the heart of the team and that's what I want to show in my art.

What does a first-time reader need to know before picking up this title?

Only how to read, because Brian wrote a crazy energetic starting point for readers that promises to be a lot of fun!

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